

## Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 EA-09 OMB-01 AID-05 IO-13

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /107 W

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R 221430Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5472

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 5922

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER ON CURRENT INDIAN FOREIGN  
POLICY

1. ACCORDING TO A SAMACHAR REPORT PUBLISHED IN SEVERAL OF THE CAPITAL'S DAILIES APRIL 22, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER CHAVAN TOLD NEWSMEN DURING "AN INFORMAL CHAT" IN PONDICHERRY THAT INDIA IS MAKING "CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORTS" (CHAVAN'S WORDS) TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. CHAVAN IS ALSO QUOTED OBSERVING THAT THERE NOW IS "GREATER FRIENDLINESS AND GOOD WILL" ABROAD TOWARDS INDIA AND A GREATER AREA OF COOPERATION IN ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL FIELDS. THE BRIEF SAMACHAR ITEM ALSO REPORTS THAT CHAVAN COMMENTED "AX IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES."

2. IN A SAMACHAR ITEM DATED CHIDAMBARAN APRIL 22, WHICH WE CAN ANTICIPATE APPEARING IN THE APRIL 23 PRESS, CHAVAN IS REPORTED DECLARING THAT INDIA HAS ESPECIALLY CLOSE, CONSTRUCTIVE TIES WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND WISHES TO HAVE MATURE AND REALISTIC RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.

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AT THE SAME TIME, INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY ATTACHES

PRIORITY TO DEVELOPING FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND CO-  
OPERATION WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. ACCORDING TO SAMA-  
CHAR, CHAVAN FURTHER STATED THAT INDIA HAS EXCELLENT RELA-  
TIONS WITH NEPAL AND BURMA AND HAS CONCLUDED IMPORTANT  
AGREEMENTS WITH SRI LANKA. AS FOR BANGLADESH, INDIA IS  
HOPEFUL OF ESTABLISHING A HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP BASED ON  
FRIENDSHIP, COOPERATION, EQUALITY AND TRUST DESPITE THE  
DIFFICULTIES CAUSED BY THE SHEIKH'S ASSASSINATION. ACCORD-  
ING TO THE SAME SAMACHAR ITEM, CHAVAN CALLED INDIA'S  
NOMINATION OF AN AMBASSADOR TO PEKING AN  
IMPORTANT STEP IN NORMALIZING RELATIONS, AND SAID INDIA  
IS DETERMINED TO DO ITS BEST TO DEVELOP A PROCESS OF  
NORMALIZATION WITH PAKISTAN IN ACCORD WITH THE SIMLA

AGREEMENT, HOWEVER GRADUAL PROGRESS MIGHT BE.SAXBE

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**To:** STATE  
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